

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: June 24, 2012

2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #15

Summer Announcement #12, Lower Yukon Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Chinook salmon run timing continues to track considerably below historical averages. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 19,800 Chinook salmon through June 23 is well below the historical average of 75,000 for this date, and is also below the average passage estimates at this point for late run years, of approximately 36,900.

Based on the current assessment information and consistent with preseason management strategies, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A second subsistence salmon fishing period is being cancelled in District 1 and the northern portion of the Coastal District. Additionally, in the southern portion of the Coastal District, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

Coastal District: In the northern portion of the Coastal District from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed. The department will notify fishermen by Wednesday, June 27, concerning subsistence salmon fishing opportunity in the northern portion of the Coastal District.

In southern portion of the Coastal District, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 25, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon in this portion of the Coastal District.

District 1: Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in District 1, which includes the Black River, is closed and will remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 25. The department will notify fishermen by June 27 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 1.

District 2: Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is closed, and will remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 24. The department will notify fishermen by June 26 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 2.

District 3: Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 24, gillnets will be restricted during subsistence salmon fishing periods to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 3 will be open from 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 24, until 2:00 p.m. Monday, June 25.

District 3 will remain closed during the subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. The department will notify fishermen by June 30 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 3.

Fishermen in Districts 1, 2, and 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the subsistence salmon fishing closure to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passes through these districts.

Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 24, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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